

Appl. No. 09/864,791
Amdt. Dated August 23, 2004
Reply to Office action of April 29, 2004
Attorney Docket No. P14566-US1
EUS/J/P/04-3190

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended Claims 1, 12, 17 and 20. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-9, 11-17 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hasan (US 5,724,658). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims.

The basic premise of the Hasan reference appears to be to reduce the demand for new telephone numbers assigned to a wireless carrier in the PLMN. Hasan discloses that a small quantity of reserved telephone numbers are assigned to and maintained in a pool at a remote wireless service carrier and are then temporarily assigned to roaming subscribers during a telephone call. The same telephone numbers are also assigned to all other remote wireless service carriers in a PLMN in the same geographic region. (Summary). The pool of telephone numbers enables multiple wireless service carriers to simultaneously use the same inventory of telephone numbers.

The Applicant's present invention discloses a system and method for assigning guest identification numbers to public land mobile network associated mobile stations for access to a private system or enterprise network. The enterprise network maintains a pool of reserved guest numbers that are generated by the network. There is no specific format or structure of the guest numbers. As a public mobile station roams into the enterprise network one of the numbers is assigned to the mobile station and the mobile station can then operate in the enterprise network. When the mobile station leaves the network, the guest number is returned to the pool.

The Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to amended claim 1.

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1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing service to a guest user within a wireless enterprise network, comprising the steps of:
receiving a location update request from a guest user within a service area of the enterprise network;
allocating a guest number to the guest user's mobile station (MS), wherein the guest number is retrieved from a pool of enterprise generated identification numbers;
associating the guest number with the MS's international mobile subscriber identity (IMSI), for use exclusively within the enterprise network;
registering the guest user for service in the enterprise network; and
the enterprise network providing wireless service to the guest user.
(emphasis added)

The Applicant respectfully asserts that Hasan does not teach or suggest the emphasized limitations in amended claim 1.

In contrast to the Hasan reference, the guest number of the Applicant's invention is not one of a block of telephone numbers assigned to the network. The enterprise (private) network generates a guest number, places it in a pool of guest numbers and associates this number with the guest user's mobile station as it operates within the private network. As the mobile station leaves the private network area, the connection is transferred to the PLMN and the number is returned to the pool. The guest number is available and operable only within the private network. Furthermore, Hasan's invention is directed towards public systems where the Applicant's invention is operable solely within an enterprise, or private, system. Accordingly, Hasan does not anticipate the emphasized limitations claim 1. Claim 12 contains limitations analogous to the limitations in claim 1, in particular, the limitation regarding the enterprise network generating an identification number for association with a PLMN mobile that roams into the enterprise network. Therefore claim 12 is not anticipated by the Hasan reference.

Claims 2-9, 11, 13-17 and 19 depend from amended claims 1 and 12 respectively and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claims 1 and 12. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-9, 11-17 and 19.

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Claims 20-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Patel (US 6,314,284). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims.

The Applicant has amended claim 20 to better define the intended scope of the claimed invention.

The Patel reference appears to assign an office number to a mobile terminal in an H.323 network. The mobile terminal is an H.323 mobile terminal and as such is only reachable in the H.323 network by dialing the office number. The MSISDN is used to route the call properly in the PLMN and the H.323 system. If the mobile is in the H.323 network, the phone can be reached by dialing the office number, but if roaming the terminal is reached by the MSISDN number.

Though similar, there is a difference. The Applicant's invention provides a number in the enterprise network for use by a guest terminal. The number is temporary and when the guest roams out of the enterprise network to the PLMN, the guest number is returned to the pool. The office number in Patel is applied to enterprise resident terminals. The Applicant provides a guest number that may be applied to any number of guests at different times and Patel provides a permanent office number to the resident phones. This limitation is not taught or suggested by Patel and the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 10 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hasan (US 5,724,658) in view of Mukherjee (WO 00/39965). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims.

The Applicant has amended claims 1 and 12 to better define the intended scope of the claimed invention. The limitations in these amended claims are also found in dependent claims 10 and 18. Mukherjee appears to teach roaming from one H.323 network to another H.323 network. Mukherjee teaches the two H.323 systems communicating a location update for the visiting terminal and there is no assignment of a guest number to the visiting terminal. Mukherjee does not supply the missing limitation, that of supplying a guest number to a visiting terminal that is operable only

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within the enterprise network that provides the guest number. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 10 and 18.

Prior Art Not Relied Upon

In paragraph 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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